

Fred Hall, the Wizard of the Pool Table, Who Performs Marvellous Tricks with Billiard Balls.

There is a young man now in New York who comes pretty near to working miracles with billiard balls. Yet so far New Yorkers have had little chance to appreciate what this man—Fred Hall—can do. He is now exhibiting every night at Maurice Daly's rooms, but, while the "provinces" know him, he has scarcely been seen here.

Hall is, at that, a New Yorker by birth, though his present home is in Norwalk, Conn. He is now twenty-three years old, and began to practice on the pool table first about nine years ago, when he was employed at an uptown billiard hall. He studied the science of pool and billiards, but soon found that his specialty was in the line of trick work, and has therefore mainly devoted his attention to it. He has been touring constantly of late years, and from the opinion that Maurice Daly entertains of his work there is little doubt that he is little short of a genius.

A very pretty piece of manipulation has been named "Chinese Pool." Hall takes two cues, and, handling them with great dexterity, picks up the cue ball from the table very much as if with a pair of tongs, and then passes the ball high up the cues. The cue then becomes an inclined "chute," down which the ball rolls with sufficient force to put the object ball into the pocket. Hall's accuracy of aim is so great that he can pocket fifteen balls consecutively in this way.

Some of the tricks that Hall performs are nothing short of startling. The diagrams give the best idea of what he does. What he calls his "star shot"—the figure described resembling a five-pointed star—is a double play from opposite ends of the table. Six balls are arranged (Diagram I), three on each side, the middle one in each line being nearer the center of the table than the other two. The center ball on the right is struck, and the six balls go into the six pockets. The trick can, of course, be done singly, but Hall generally gives it in its double form.

What might be called the "hat trick" is very effective (Diagram II). Three balls are placed against the cushion, the upper one of the three opposite the middle pocket, while another ball is placed by the top pocket on the same side of the table. A hat is placed against the cushion between the two pockets. The cue ball hits the middle one of the three balls, which goes across the table and into the middle pocket on the other side. The upper of the three balls goes into the middle pocket opposite which it was placed, and the lower one goes into the bottom pocket on the same side. Meanwhile, the cue ball curves around the hat and puts the remaining red ball into the upper pocket by which it was placed.

Another very neat trick is that shown in Diagram III. Three balls are ranged diagonally at the upper end of the table, a circle being drawn around the center one. The farthest ball goes into the right-hand top pocket, the nearest into the left-hand, while the cue ball lands (as indicated by the dotted lines) in the right-hand bottom pocket.

Diagram IV shows how Hall puts three balls into the same pocket, while the play shown in Diagram V demonstrates how four balls are pocketed in a single shot.

OUTRAN THE CYCLISTS.

"Harris," a Hobo, Played "Sleeper" with Some Irish Wheelmen in an Eleven-Mile Record Race.

According to an Irish paper entitled the Wexford Free Press, a wonderful feat of pedestrianism was accomplished at a town called Enniscorthy very recently. One day a man who would be described in polite circles as belonging to the "titanic class" strolled leisurely into the market square of the town. On his breast he carried a placard with the brazen announcement that he was open to run any man in the world. A crowd, among whom were several cyclists, immediately gathered around the seeming hobo, who said his name was Harris, and that he could cover eleven miles in less than an hour.

It was decided without delay to give Harris a "trial" by running along the public road to the village of Ferns, five and a half miles distant, and back. An impromptu set of officials was formed from the cyclists. Harris started at a clipping pace, and the three cyclists who accompanied him had to hump themselves in order to keep up. He reached Ferns well inside the half hour, and, with the unwavering persistence of a Comanche, came on a hot trail, started on the homeward journey. The wheelmen expected he would weaken at the finish, but instead he reached the goal with an elasticity and endurance that scorched fagades. The time returned by him was 56 minutes flat.

The best previous figures for eleven miles is 58 minutes 52 seconds, by "Derfoot," at London, England, in 1892. If Harris's challenge is not taken by any one on the other side he is preparing to come to America to try his luck.

The National Lodging House.

(Detroit News.) Among all the Cabinet roomers Mr. Hanna wishes to occupy first floor, front.

PROFITS OF PUGILISM.

Tom King, Whom Mace Defeated, Left a Fortune of \$272,300 When He Died.

The will of the late Mr. Thomas King, of Clarence House, Clapham, a suburb of London, England, who died on October 4, 1888, may provide one "solid" reason why prize fighting has attracted so many "supporters."

Thomas King died aged fifty-three years, and his will disclosed a pleasant state of affairs. King was born in Steyney, England. After making one voyage as a sailor he obtained work at the Victoria docks, and rose to be foreman of the shipping works, adopting pugilism also as a profession.

He was beaten by Jim Mace in January, 1882, but in November the same year the combatants again met, and the tables were turned, and King became the champion of England. After a fight, which excited much interest at the time, with John Heenan, the Benile Boy, in March, 1883, Tom King retired from the prize ring and became a bookmaker.

The value of his personal estate was declared \$24,472 88, or equal to about \$72,300. From this it may be gathered that pugilism is not without its rewards, provided a man knows how to take care of his dollars.

Racing Prospect in Illinois.

The prospect for the turf in Illinois is growing brighter. The question of obtaining reasonable legislation, restricting, but permitting, racing and trotting, has hinged largely on what action the Washington Park Club, of Chicago, would take in the matter. Now Mr. George Henry Wheeler, the president of that club, has signified that the organization will co-operate in any reputable scheme that may be advanced. The chances are that meetings on any one course will be restricted to thirty days and "foreign" books will be prohibited, but that policy that betting will be confined to the so-called "English" system that has been adopted in New York State, and when racing is again seen in Illinois the "dime" will probably be seen up as in old days.

OFFICE REALLY SEEKS THIS MAN.

Three Big L. A. W. Divisions Want Potter for President.

He Declares He Cannot Run, but He May Be Nominated, Nevertheless.

Exposed Casing in the Rear of Bevel Gearing Wheels a Source of Weakness.

TANDEM'S POPULARITY GROWING.

The New Ones Have Stronger Frames and Less Cramped Arrangement of Seat Posts and Saddles.

League politics are becoming more and more interesting as the time grows shorter before the meeting of the National Assembly of the L. A. W. at Albany in February. Notwithstanding the announcement of Isaac B. Potter that he would not be a candidate for the presidency, the delegates from this State seem determined to do all they can to elect him, and are entering into

sake of lightness, occupies the most exposed place on the rear part of the machine in case of a fall to the right hand side. The shock which in such an event would be received by the rear axle and in the chain driven machine, would in the chainless bevel geared bicycle strike on a comparatively weak part of the mechanism, and one which is, moreover, vital to its continued operation. While there are methods that remedy this, such as lengthening the rear axle beyond the prominence of the gear it is said to be extremely difficult as the bevel gear is at present constructed.

All the manufacturers are preparing to turn out large numbers of tandems in expectation that the demand for this form of machine will be very great next season. Tandem riding grows in popularity, and when riders see the handsome 1897 models the demand for them will be greater than ever. The frames are made much stronger this year, and the seat posts and saddles are so arranged that the riders will not have the cramped appearance that has so often been noticed in times past.

OF SPORTS

AND SPORTSMEN.

The Tucker brothers, Will and Sam, who were employed as the professionals for the St. Andrew's Golf Club during the past season, sailed for England yesterday.

The Crescent Athletic Club, of Brooklyn, like the New York and New Jersey Athletic Clubs, feels the necessity of adding golf to its list of sports. Therefore arrangements have been made for a full nine-hole course.

The First Bohemians have plucked up courage again, and have decided to make another effort to produce a winning junior eight-oared crew. Twenty stalwart athletes have been placed in

WHY HOCKEY IS BOOMING.

Its Snap and Vim Have Made It This Winter's Most Popular Sport.

Three Rinks in New York and Brooklyn Are in Almost Constant Use.

Outdoor Clubs Are Playing It All Over the North and East Where Ice Is Found.

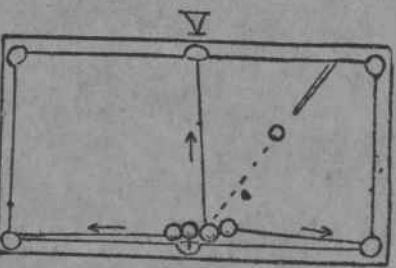
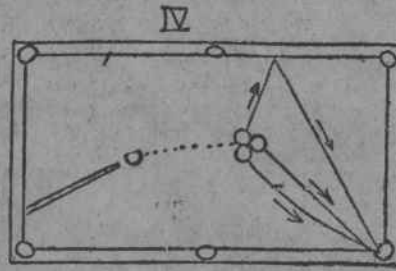
IT IS INDIGENOUS HERE TOO.

"Father Bill" Curtis and Ex-Champion Skater George Phillips Are Enthusiastic Over the Game's Progress.

An important addition has been made to the list of our winter sports. A year ago hockey was virtually unknown in New York except by men born and bred in country districts where sports on the ice are enthusiastically boomed or by a few old-timers who remember the game as originally played in its primitive and unsentimental form.

To-day hockey is being played wherever the opportunity offers, and the chance to play the game has increased as ice rinks are constructed. Devotees of the sport no longer have to rely on the kindness of Dame Nature in supplying frost and ice, but have ice supplied by artificial processes of a quality that Nature has seldom, if ever, been able to produce. So it comes that hockey is already enrolled as one of our leading winter sports and gives promise of taking its place in the very front rank of all.

Hockey is bound to be popular. The sport possesses the magnetic attraction of all games where the players are in personal contact, where brain meets brain, and swiftness of eye, rapidity of decision, litheness of limb and enduring quality of muscle are called into service. Football must always excel in popularity such a game as pool or billiards, where science is substituted for qualities of manly endurance. And hockey has more than a superficial likeness to football. The element of danger, without which it has been well said no pastime can truly be classed as a



WESTON'S TIPS FOR WALKERS.

The Veteran Pedestrian Eschews Stimulants, but Uses Tea and Coffee in Training.

I am asked to give the Journal something of my experience as a pedestrian, and especially how I accomplished feats of endurance and distance walks within limited hours twenty and thirty years ago. There is no secret in this business as far as I am concerned.

The old army regulations recognized fifteen miles as good average, every-day marching. When pressed, an army will march from twenty to thirty miles a day for



WESTON IN TRAINING.

(A Snap-shot Flashlight Picture Taken in Central Park 9 p. m. Tuesday.)

one or two days, and a small detachment, specially prepared will sometimes do even better than that for a single day. But there is not one man in a thousand who can start off in his normal condition, without training or preparation, and walk fifty miles in twenty-four hours. So, when a man has a tramp of a hundred or more miles before him to be covered within the limits of a day, careful training is a necessary prerequisite.

This training consists not merely in getting the system in perfect condition through proper diet, exercise, sleep and mental control, but, more than all, the feet (which alone bear the body on the long journey) must be carefully looked after. Ten miles of continuous walking will pretty effectually use up the average feet, accustomed only to the ordinary tasks of every-day life, and when one's feet are well blistered walking becomes unendurable torture. It is therefore absolutely necessary, as a preliminary, that the feet be toughened. Use them until blistered, and then let the water out with a needle and pickle them. This removes the fever. Thus callousness will be induced on the tender parts formerly disposed to blister. By persistence the feet will become thoroughly calloused before the great effort is undertaken, and no serious trouble need be apprehended from that source.

In my training, as well as when walking, I rigidly eschew all alcoholic stimulants and tobacco, as well. The effects of stimulation may be advantageous temporarily, but that is of short duration, giving place to greater weakness and lassitude, as soon as the alcohol has done its temporary work. To rely on such artificial stimulation calls for the use of increased quantities at shorter intervals, until the brain becomes muddled and one is rendered incapable of giving that calm attention to the work that is essential to success. A clear head, next to properly prepared feet, is a most important requisite in any attempt at great physical exertion.

As to food, for four weeks before a trial I confine myself to a diet of rare beef-steak, eggs and mutton chops, with plain vegetables and rice pudding. Tea, coffee, milk and water are my only beverages. Thus I seek to thoroughly nourish the body, avoiding whatever may tend to excite the nervous system, impair the digestive organs or weaken the stomach. The object sought is to produce the least possible fatty growth, to harden and strengthen the muscles, to induce perfect action of all the functions and establish the most substantial condition of general health, both physical and mental.

In my practice for the forthcoming testimonial I have so far confined myself to covering a distance of five or ten miles a day. When I began my weight was 160 pounds. The result of my light exercise and training is shown by the following table of each day's work for a week:

Day	Miles Walked	Time, M. S.	Weight
December 7.....	10	1 02 30	160
December 8.....	10	2 03 45	159 1/2
December 12.....	10	2 02 45	159
December 14.....	10	2 04 00	158 1/2
December 15.....	10	2 05 00	158
December 16.....	10	2 06 00	157 1/2
December 17.....	10	2 07 00	157

The coming week, unless the weather interferes, I shall spend largely in the country, walking on country roads from twenty-five to forty miles a day, possibly increasing the distance to fifty or more miles in order to accustom myself to sustained exertion. I may very properly add that Dr. Robert Taylor, who has been with me in most of my important undertakings since 1870, will have full charge of me this time.

Professor R. Ogden Doremus, Professor Charles A. Doremus and several other eminent physicians and scientists have signified a desire to watch me during this performance and make records of my pulse, temperature, respiration, etc., at frequent intervals, to compare with similar data obtained by Dr. Austin Flint, Professor Dalton, Dr. W. A. Hammond and the Professors Doremus in my walks in 1870. They intimate that this data is valuable from a scientific standpoint.

Thanking you for the interest you have manifested in my humble efforts to demonstrate the fact that, with proper care, a man should be just as good physically at fifty-eight as he is at thirty-three years of age, and also for your generous encouragement of the great cause of physical culture, I am, yours respectfully,

EDWARD PAYSON WESTON.

SHARKEY GETS HIS MONEY

Bank Pays Him the \$10,000 Purse, Minus \$1,500 of It, Which Had Been Attached by Creditors.

San Francisco, Dec. 19.—As soon as the Anglo-California Bank opened, Tom Sharkey presented the certified check for \$10,000 handed him by Referee Wyatt Earp on the day of the fight with Fitzsimmons. The cashier notified the Sallor that attachments aggregating \$1,500 had been filed against the certificate. "All right, then, give me the balance," remarked Sharkey, in a way which indicated that he was anxious to get the \$8,500 out of reach of the collectors. The money was turned over to him, and he proceeded on his way jubilantly.

Sharkey has not definitely determined as to his future movements. "I'm ready to fight anybody," said Sharkey to-day. "But as nobody seems desirous of meeting me, it don't look as if I would get a match for some time. Peter Maher, the man I would like to go against, is matched to meet Steve O'Donnell; so I will be unable to get a fight out of the Irishman until after his present engagement is over." Inquiry among members of the Grand Jury leads to the conclusion that that body will not proceed against the boxers by finding indictments for felony. In the jury are a number of prominent citizens who do not disapprove of ring contests. They hold it would be unwise to proceed against the boxers, as it is certain convictions could not be obtained.